

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8613

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV US UR

SUBJ: USSR-US ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: MUSK OXEN

1. SCICOUNS WAS INFORMED BY DR. DENISOV AT A MEETING ON MARCH 26 AT HYDROMET THAT DETAILED INFORMATION REQUIRED BY US CONCERNING FLIGHT TO PICK UP MUSK OXEN WILL BE PROVIDED BY AIR MINISTRY TO HIM BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK.

2. THE PLANE THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR THE PICK-UP IS AN AN-12 WHICH IS TOO BIG TO LAND ON NUNIVAK ISLAND. THE SOVIETS ARE PROPOSING THEREFORE TO PICK UP THE MUSK OXEN IN BETHEL AROUND APRIL 15.

3. SCICOUNS POINTED OUT THAT THE OFFER MADE BY THE US WAS MADE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ANIMALS WERE TO BE PICKED UP AT NUNIVAK. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION IT WAS AGREED, SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY, BY DR. DENISOV THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WILL PAY FOR ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE US IN TRANSPORTING THE MUSK OXEN FROM MEKIRYUK TO BETHEL. THE SOVIET ARE PLANNING FOR A SINGLE FLIGHT AND CLAIM TO HAVE ENOUGH SPACE IN THEIR CARGO AN-12 FOR ALL THE ANIMALS.

4. WILL KEEP YOU ADVISE ON ANY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.
STOESSEL

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